City of Lafayette Staff Report

For:	City Council
By:	Leah C. Greenblat, Transportation Planner
Date Written:	February 20, 2009
Meeting Date:	March 9, 2009
Subject:	CEQA Finding and Authorizing Resolution for TDA Article 3 Funds for Stanley Boulevard Sidewalk at Warner Curve

Introduction

The City applied for 2009/2010 Transportation Development Act Article 3 funds to construct a section of sidewalk on Stanley Boulevard between Barott Road and Warner Court. In order to complete the grant application, a supporting resolution from the City Council is required as well as a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) finding. The attached resolution supports the project application and commits the City to a $20,000 local fund match for the Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3 grant funds for the implementation of the subject project. This project has gone through the County's grant review process and is currently on the "bid list" that will be submitted to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Subject to its final approval, the City will receive $67,600 of TDA Article 3 grant funding with $20,000 of City matching funds.

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution 2009-015. Additionally staff recommends that Council adopt a Categorical Exemption finding for the project and authorize staff to record a Notice of Exemption.

Discussion

The Contra Costa County Public Works Department oversees the TDA selection process for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for pedestrian and bicycle projects.

The City previously applied for and received other funding to construct the Stanley Boulevard sidewalk between Camino Diablo and Barott Road. Due to insufficient funds, the project could not be extended to Warner Court which the neighborhood considers a high priority linkage for improving safety. This TDA grant would complete that linkage. The City also received a Highway Safety Improvement Program grant to realign the intersection of Warner Court and Stanley Boulevard. If the HSIP and TDA funds are both made available in time, staff intends to construct these two projects this summer; alternatively, the construction would occur as soon as practical.

In order to receive the grant, the County and MTC require that the sponsoring agency submit a letter of support and to commit to the cash match for this project. The attached resolution fulfills this grant requirement.

The grant also requires documentation of a completed environmental review. The project qualifies for CEQA categorical exemptions under Section 15301C governing minor alteration to existing streets, sidewalks, and trails within the existing right-of-way. Staff recommends that the Council adopt a Categorical Exemption finding for the project and authorize staff to record a Notice of Exemption.

Fiscal Impact

Adoption of Resolution 2009-015 may commit the City of Lafayette to provide $20,000 in local matching funds in order to receive $67,600 in TDA Article 3 program funds. The local match amount may be needed depending on bid prices. Staff will return for allocation of these funds, if necessary, at a later date.

Recommendation

1. Adopt City Council Resolution No. 2009-015 to:
    - Support the filing of applications for Transportation Development Act Article 3 Program funding for the Stanley Boulevard Sidewalk at Warner Curve Project.
    - Meet expected compliance requirements for securing environmental clearances.
    - Commit the necessary local match for the project and stating the assurance of the City of Lafayette to complete the project.
2. Adopt a CEQA Categorical Exemption finding under Section 15301C for the project and authorize staff to record a Notice of Exemption.

Attachments

1. Resolution No. 2007-023
2. Draft Notice of Exemption

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BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE

In the matter of:

Request to the Metropolitan Transportation)
Commission for the Allocation of Fiscal Year)
2009-2010 Transportation Development Act)
Article 3 Pedestrian/Bicycle Project Funding) Resolution No. 2009-015

WHEREAS, Article 3 of the Transportation Development Act (TDA), Public Utilities Code (PUC) Section 99200 et seq., authorizes the submission of claims to a regional transportation planning agency for the funding of projects exclusively for the benefit and/or use of pedestrians and bicyclists; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), as the regional transportation planning agency for the San Francisco Bay region, has adopted MTC Resolution No. 875, Revised, entitled "Transportation Development Act, Article 3, Pedestrian/Bicycle Projects," which delineates procedures and criteria for submission of requests for the allocation of "TDA Article 3" funding; and

WHEREAS, MTC Resolution No. 875, Revised requires that requests for the allocation of TDA Article 3 funding be submitted as part of a single, countywide coordinated claim from each county in the San Francisco Bay region; and

WHEREAS, the **City of Lafayette** desires to submit a request to MTC for the allocation of TDA Article 3 funds to support the projects described in Attachment B to this resolution, which are for the exclusive benefit and/or use of pedestrians and/or bicyclists; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the **City of Lafayette** declares it is eligible to request an allocation of TDA Article 3 funds pursuant to Section 99234 of the Public Utilities Code, and furthermore, be it

RESOLVED, that there is no pending or threatened litigation that might adversely affect the project or projects described in Attachment B to this resolution, or that might impair the ability of the **City of Lafayette** to carry out the project; and furthermore, be it

RESOLVED, that the **City of Lafayette** attests to the accuracy of and approves the statements in Attachment A to this resolution; and furthermore, be it

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution and its attachments, and any accompanying supporting materials shall be forwarded to the congestion management

agency, countywide transportation planning agency, or county association of governments, as the case may be, of **Contra Costa County** for submission to MTC as part of the countywide coordinated TDA Article 3 claim.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Lafayette at a regular meeting of said Council on March 9, 2009 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

APPROVED: ATTEST:

MAYOR CITY CLERK

Resolution No. 2009-015
Attachment A

Re: Request to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for the Allocation of Fiscal Year **2009/2010** Transportation Development Act Article 3 Pedestrian/Bicycle Project Funding

Findings
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1. That the **City of Lafayette** is not legally impeded from submitting a request to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for the allocation of Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3 funds, nor is the **City of Lafayette** legally impeded from undertaking the project(s) described in "Attachment B" of this resolution.
2. That the **City of Lafayette** has committed adequate staffing resources to complete the project(s) described in Attachment B.
3. A review of the project(s) described in Attachment B has resulted in the consideration of all pertinent matters, including those related to environmental and right-of-way permits and clearances, attendant to the successful completion of the project(s).
4. Issues attendant to securing environmental and right-of-way permits and clearances for the projects described in Attachment B have been reviewed and will be concluded in a manner and on a schedule that will not jeopardize the deadline for the use of the TDA funds being requested.
5. That the project(s) described in Attachment B comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.).
6. That as portrayed in the budgetary description(s) of the project(s) in Attachment B, the sources of funding other than TDA are assured and adequate for completion of the project(s).
7. That the project(s) described in Attachment B are for capital construction and/or design engineering; and/or for the maintenance of a Class I bikeway which is closed to motorized traffic; and/or for the purposes of restriping Class II bicycle lanes; and/or for the development or support of a bicycle safety education program; and/or for the development of a comprehensive bicycle and/or pedestrian facilities plan, and an allocation of TDA Article 3 funding for such a plan has not been received by the **City of Lafayette** within the prior five fiscal years.
8. That the project(s) described in Attachment B which are bicycle projects have been included in a detailed bicycle circulation element included in an adopted general plan, or included in an adopted comprehensive bikeway plan (such as outlined in Section 2377 of the California Bikeways Act, Streets and Highways Code section 2370 et seq.).
9. That any project described in Attachment B that is a "Class I Bikeway," meets the mandatory minimum safety design criteria published in Chapter 1000 of the California Highway Design Manual.
10. That the project(s) described in Attachment B are ready to commence implementation during the fiscal year of the requested allocation.
11. That the **City of Lafayette** agrees to maintain, or provide for the maintenance of, the project(s) and facilities described in Attachment B, for the benefit of and use by the public.

TDA Article 3 Project Application Form

Fiscal Year of this Claim: 2009-2010 Applicant: City of Lafayette

Contact person: Leah Greenblat, Transportation Planner

Mailing Address: 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Suite 210, Lafayette, CA 94549

E-Mail Address: LGREENBLAT@CI.LAFAYETTE.CA.US Telephone: 925.299.3229

Secondary Contact (in event primary not available) Tony Coe, Engineering Services Manager

E-Mail Address: TCOE@CI.LAFAYETTE.CA.US Telephone: 925.284.1968

Short Title Description of Project: Stanley Blvd. Sidewalk at Warner Curve

Amount of claim: $67,600

Functional Description of Project:

The proposed project will construct a grade separated, sidewalk along an s-curve through a speeding and collision prone portion of the street. Stanley Blvd. / Springbrook Rd. is a neighborhood collector street that roughly parallels Hwy 24 and joins the City of Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill Road, a regional arterial. Currently (and traffic models predict more so in the future), the roadway is known as the back-way for drivers to by-pass congestion at the I-680 interchange and Hwy. 24 during commute periods which in the morning corresponds with students going to school. There are no sidewalks or designated pedestrian facilities within the project's limits. Mature vegetation planted directly behind the curb and/or the sloping hill side requires pedestrians to walk in the street along a parking shoulder, except when a vehicle is parked; then, pedestrians must walk in the vehicle travel lane. Vehicles are frequently observed traveling in the shoulder/parking area creating a nerve-racking and potentially unsafe walking environment. Multiple serious vehicle collisions have occurred along the street; many attributable to speeding. Residents drive students to school or to each others homes in order to avoid walking along this curve. In addition to the high school down the street, a community swimming pool, day care, pre-school and the area's sole convenience store are nearby. The Lamorinda School Bus Program runs service along the street to serve middle school students who walk to the bus stops. The street also serves as the neighborhood's sole walking route to Springhill Elementary School which is shorter walk than it appears to be due to a short-cut via Quandt Rd. The City applied for both state and federal Safe Routes to School funds and received only sufficient state funds to construct the sidewalk on Stanley Blvd. from Camino Pablo to Barott Rd. The proposed project will extend the sidewalk east from Barrot Road through the Warner Court curve. This portion of the sidewalk is a high priority for both the neighborhood and City; so much so that if awarded funding and timing permits, it is the City's intent to construct this portion of the project in conjunction with or shortly thereafter the sidewalk west of Barott Rd. For over two years, City staff and residents have worked on developing a sidewalk plan and last year 78% of the residents voted to support the construction of the sidewalk. The City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee reviewed this project and unanimously identified it as its highest priority for TDA funding. In coordination with this proposed sidewalk project, the City will also undertake a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funded project to re-align the s-curve to improve sight distance, slow vehicles and reallocate roadway space for pedestrians to accommodate this future pedestrian facility

Financial Plan:

List the project elements for which TDA funding is being requested (e.g., planning, environmental, engineering, right-of-way, construction, inspection, contingency, audit). Use the table below to show the project budget. Include prior and proposed future funding of the project. If the project is a segment of a larger project, include prior and proposed funding sources for the other segments.

Project Elements: Construct a 5 ft. wide, concrete sidewalk with curb, gutter and retaining walls, as needed, on the north side of Stanley Blvd. beginning at Barrot Rd. and extending eastward to Warner Court, approx. 330 feet. The existing landscaping, varied topography and curvilinear roadway alignment create a variety of design challenges. As much as feasible, the sidewalk design utilizes the existing curb and gutter to minimize cost. The City's matching funds will cover needed engineering, construction inspection and contingency. No additional right-of-way is required.

Funding Source	All Prior FYs	Application FY	Next FY	Following FYs	Totals
TDA Article 3		$67,600			$67,600
list all other sources:					
1. City Match	$7500	$20,000			$27,500
2. SR2S	$350,000				$350,000
3.HSIP	$68,000				$68,000
4.					
Totals	$425,500	$87,600			$438,000

Project Eligibility:	YES?/NO?
A. Has the project been approved by the claimant's governing body? (If "NO," provide the approximate date approval is anticipated).	Yes
B. Has this project previously received TDA Article 3 funding? If "YES," provide an explanation on a separate page.	No
C. For "bikeways," does the project meet Caltrans minimum safety design criteria pursuant to Chapter 1000 of the California Highway Design Manual? (Available on the internet via: http://www.dot.ca.gov).	N/A
D. Has the project been reviewed by a Bicycle Advisory Committee? (If "NO," provide an explanation).	Yes
E. Has the public availability of the environmental compliance documentation for the project (pursuant to CEQA) been evidenced by the dated stamping of the document by the county clerk or county recorder? (required only for projects that include construction).	Yes
F. Will the project be completed before the allocation expires? Enter the anticipated completion date of project (month and year) If funding is approved by MTC in June, then completion by December 2009, alternatively ASAP thereafter.	Yes
G. Have provisions been made by the claimant to maintain the project or facility, or has the claimant arranged for such maintenance by another agency? (If an agency other than the Claimant is to maintain the facility provide its name: _____)	Yes